



# INTERNATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL DAY

## OCTOBER 3, 2006

REPORT TO THE MOSCOW SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Presented on November 28, 2006

## 2006 International Walk to School Day

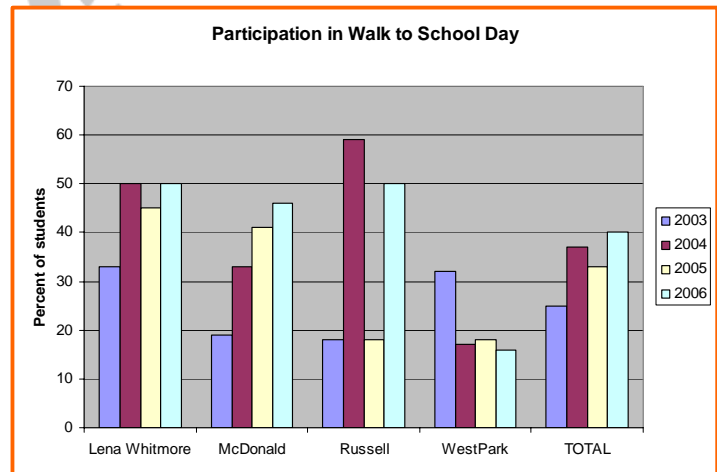
The Moscow School District's four elementary schools celebrated International Walk to School Day on October 3, 2006. International Walk to School Day is an annual celebration with more than 3 million participants in 40 countries around the world. This year in the United States, almost 2,300 schools nationwide celebrated Walk to School Day. The objective of Walk to School Day is to celebrate and promote walking, bicycling, and other forms of safe, non-motorized transportation to school—as a means to promote health, safety, physical activity, and concern for community and the environment. This is the fourth consecutive year that schools in the Moscow School District have participated in a coordinated Walk to School Day event.



On Walk to School Day morning, community volunteers—including parents, Board members, Moscow City Council members, Moscow High School Key Club members, and other citizen volunteers—handed out “Proud to be Walking” (or “Biking”) stickers to students who walked or bicycled to school. Based on the number of stickers handed out, we counted 460 students walking or bicycling to school on Walk to School Day. This represents 40% of all elementary school students in the district, the highest number of participants and participation rate ever for a Moscow Walk to School Day event!

School	Walkers	Bikers	Total	% of student body
Lena Whitmore	107	43	150	50%
McDonald	144	43	187	46%
Russell	67	13	80	50%
West Park	26	17	43	16%

Another year of the Walk to School Day tradition in Moscow and better weather than 2005 probably contributed to making 2006 a banner year. Lena Whitmore School tied its participation record from 2004, and McDonald School set its own new record. Russell School almost reached its 2004 record, recovering from bad weather and a tracking problem on our part in 2005. West Park School continues to be affected by district busing policies that have changed the number of children walking or biking across the UI campus to reach the school.



This year we observed an increase in the number (116) and percentage of participants (25%) biking to school on Walk to School Day. Lena Whitmore, McDonald, and West Park Schools each had the highest number of bicyclists for that school since we began keeping track in 2004. Bike racks were overflowing at some schools.

Students were not the only ones walking to school on Walk to School Day morning. Parents were encouraged to walk with their students, and many did. Some teachers also walked.

Principals at the elementary schools and their kitchen staffs provided breakfasts for students and parents who participated in the event. Breakfast has become a popular tradition within the Moscow Walk to School Day celebration. The principals and their staffs deserve special thanks for their extra efforts to support the event and host the breakfasts.

This year, for the first time, the Mayor of Moscow issued a Walk to School Day proclamation. We extend special thanks to Mayor Chaney and Acting Mayor Pall for their support.

"Thanks for working on the bike/walk to school event. Emmali really enjoyed it. We rode with two other kids on the way home and that made it even more fun. She said she wants to 'ride to school every day!' Maybe that can happen next year at Russell when she wouldn't have to cross US 95 and 3<sup>rd</sup> St. on her own. She was also impressed that she could leave later than the bus and get there earlier." ---Matt Kitterman

Behind the scenes organization for Walk to School Day was a little different this year. The Walk to School Day Organizing Committee asked each principal to identify a school coordinator. Coordinators at three of the four schools were parents of students and previous Walk to School Day volunteers. At Russell School, Principal Jones asked Rick Markley, the P.E. teacher on staff there, to coordinate the effort and we were particularly excited to think about the integration of walking to school into the physical education curricula. All coordinators are to be commended for a job well done. At McDonald School, the PTO has asked us to create an "organizer's manual" for the event that can be passed along year-to-year as new school coordinators take over. Both these actions demonstrate that schools are taking ownership of the Walk to School Day event and that it is valued by school staffs and parents.

The Walk to School Day Organizing Committee considers the 2006 event to be a great success. We thank the Board of Trustees, the school principals and staffs, the City of Moscow, and all the community organizations and volunteers that made it so successful. We look forward to the 2007 Walk to School Day scheduled for next October.

## Safe Routes to School

Thirty years ago, two-thirds of American children walked or biked to school. Today, only one in six does so on a regular basis. Concerns about pedestrian safety are among the reasons for the decline in walking and biking to school in recent decades.

Walk to School Day, as a special celebration to recognize the benefits of doing so, is a one-day annual event, but children need safe routes for walking and biking to school every day. To promote that goal, communities across the country are participating in Safe Routes to School (SR2S) programs.

In August 2005, Congress passed a federal transportation bill that provides funding for SR2S programs. Idaho, through the Idaho Transportation Department, will be receiving \$1 million per year in SR2S funds. These funds can be spent on infrastructure projects---such as crosswalks, sidewalks, and bicycling facilities---as well as non-infrastructure projects---such as safety education programs, public awareness campaigns, and enforcement.

The success of Moscow's Walk to School Day demonstrates the District's and community's commitment to providing safe accommodation for *all* modes of transportation that get students to and from school. The District and City are well prepared for using SR2S funds as they become available. We expect that the Idaho Transportation Department will be soliciting proposals for SR2S grant funding sometime in the near future, likely within the next six months. We encourage the District and the City to begin identifying needs and planning for SR2S projects they wish to implement.

Much more about SR2S programs and resources can be found at the National Center for Safe Routes to School website ([www.saferoutesinfo.org](http://www.saferoutesinfo.org)) and the Idaho Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to School website ([itd.idaho.gov/bike\\_ped/sr2s](http://itd.idaho.gov/bike_ped/sr2s)).





## 2006 Walk to School Day Organizing Committee

Philip Cook

Robin Ohlgren-Evans

J.D. Wulfhorst

## 2006 Walk to School Day Coordinators

Lena Whitmore Elementary: Tom & Liz Ivie

Russell Elementary:

Rick Markley

McDonald Elementary: Diane Prorak

West Park Elementary:

J.D. Wulfhorst

## 2006 Walk to School Day Sponsors

Moscow School District #281

Board of Trustees

Candis Donicht, Superintendent

Laurie Austin, Principal, McDonald Elementary

Carole Jones, Principal, Russell Elementary

Bill Marineau, Principal, West Park Elementary

Tony McDonnell, Principal, Lena Whitmore Elementary

The kitchen staffs at each elementary school

Friends of Neighborhood Schools

Latah Trail Foundation

Moscow Civic Association

City of Moscow

Moscow Department of Parks and Recreation

Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute

Palouse Road Runners

Paradise Path Task Force

Village Bicycle Project

### INTERNATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL DAY PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Walking or bicycling to school affords opportunities to build activity into daily routine; and

WHEREAS, Lack of physical activity contributes to rising rates of obesity, diabetes and other health problems among children; and

WHEREAS, Parents, caregivers, community leaders and others are well-positioned to teach children about pedestrian safety, health risks related to sedentary lifestyles, and environmental consequences of fossil fuel use; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of children across the Country and around the world are harmed each year in pedestrian-vehicle accidents; and

WHEREAS, Many of those encounters could be prevented by making pedestrian safety a priority; and

WHEREAS, Driving students to school by private vehicle contributes to traffic congestion and air pollution; and

WHEREAS, Identifying shortcomings in transportation systems is the first step toward enhancing bicycle-pedestrian safety; and

WHEREAS, Children, parents and community leaders around the world are joining together to walk to school.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Linda Pall, Acting Mayor of the City of Moscow, in the State of Idaho do hereby proclaim Tuesday October 3, 2006 as

#### International Walk to School Day

within Moscow and urge all citizens to consider the safety and health of children today and every day.

DATED this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of October, 2006.



*Linda Pall*  
Linda Pall, Acting Mayor

## 2006 Walk to School Day Community Volunteers

Margaret Dibble

Annette Robarge

Ashley Hewett

Nancy Charles

Christy Dearien

Susan Roberts

Faye Nagler

Tom Lamar

Adam Scriptor

Mariona Foreman

Dru Law

Cindy Ament

Lynn Wells-Tanimoto

Lori Courtright

Francisca Crutchfield

Margaret Lind

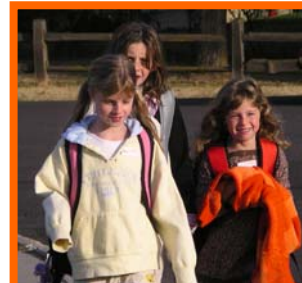
Jenny Watts

Cathy Hannon

Aaron Ament

Jessica Durham

Anne Peterson



The 2006 Moscow International Walk to School Day Organizing Committee wishes to express our sincere thanks to all supporters and volunteers. **THANK YOU!**